

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

National Congress of Parents and Teachers

1201 16th St N W Washington D C



Fortieth Anniversary Celebration

Mrs. Fred M. Raymond, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, National Chairman of Founders Day, urges Congress units to observe the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the National Congress as "a valuable occasion for broad acquaintance with the history and accomplishments of the National Congress and for building a constructive program for the future." A special 40th Anniversary Committee, under the chairmanship of Mrs. W. J. Hayes, of Burlingame, California, and consisting of Mrs. Noel C. Little, Brunswick, Maine; Mrs. Frederick M. Hosmer, Auburn, New York; and Mrs. Raymond, has been working for several months on plans for the celebration.

The National Congress advises local units to celebrate the anniversary year by considering special projects emphasizing needs of youth, world peace, homemaking as a career, safety in home, school, and community, or some other phase of parent-teacher work; by emphasizing the underlying principles of the Congress organization through programs; by keeping alive the spirit of the founders and pioneer workers; and by presenting free-will offerings for extension work. A list of Founders Day program material may be obtained by Congress units by sending a stamped self-addressed envelop with the request to the National Office.

Horace Mann Centennial

Another important anniversary in which the National Congress will have a part is the Horace Mann Centennial, to be observed from October 1936 to November 1937. Joy Elmer Morgan, Editor of the Journal of the National Education Association, and former National Congress Chairman of Publications, has prepared a book entitled, "Horace Mann, His Ideas and Ideals," which is being distributed by the National Home Library Foundation, Dupont Circle Building, Washington, D. C., price 25 cents a copy.

American Education Week

"American Education Week, November 9-15, is here to remind us that America believes in equal educational opportunities for all children as a fundamental tenet; let us all observe it with our children," writes Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, National President, in the November issue of the *National Parent-Teacher Magazine*. Mrs. Langworthy advises Congress members to visit the schools their children attend, sometime during American Education Week.

A leaflet by Mrs. Langworthy, "*On School Visiting*," which gives valuable advice to parents on how to visit the school in an intelligent way, may be had by sending a stamped self-addressed envelop to the National Office.

Summer Round-Up of Children

The 1936 Summer Round-Up of the Children, a health activity of the National Congress, closed November 1, and reports are being received in the National Office from local units which carried through the campaign. A summary of these reports will be included in the annual report of the National Chairman, Dr. Lillian R. Smith, which will be presented at the 1937 National Convention in Richmond. Registration for the 1937 campaign will open January 1. Registration blanks for next year's campaign have been sent to state chairmen for distribution to local units.

The program for the 1937 Round-Up includes a canvass of the community to locate the children who will enter school; a personal visit with the parents to inform them of the need for an examination; an examination in the spring to discover the child's physical condition; follow-up visits to the home to urge that the advice of the examining physician and dentist be followed and to make arrangements for the treatment of indigent cases; and a check-up in the fall to find out if the advice of the examining doctor and dentist has been carried out.

Parent Education Biennial

The National Congress was represented as follows at the Biennial Conference of the National Council of Parent Education in Chicago, November 11-14: Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, National President, spoke at a luncheon forum on "Building Educational Values in School-Home Relationships"; Miss Mary Murphy, National Chairman of Child Hygiene, spoke at a dinner meeting on "The Future of Education for Family Living in Schools, Colleges, and Community Programs"; Dr. William H. Bristow, General Secretary, spoke at a forum on "Integrating WPA Educational Activities into Permanent Educational Programs"; and Alice Sowers, Parent Education Specialist, was an Invited Discussant at the Functional Section on "Adult Education for Family Life and Parenthood."

NATIONAL COMMITTEES AT WORK

Summaries of reports at the National Board meeting—continued from the October issue of the National Congress BULLETIN:

Student Aid

Mrs. F. H. Devere reported that hundreds of boys and girls are in school and college today because of the interest and help of PTAs. More than \$40,000 was expended during the past year by groups in the various states, she said. There is real need for assistance on the part of many young people who are unable to obtain funds from other sources; in many states National Youth Administration funds are available only to children from families on relief, she stated. High-school students appear to have been the most needy group during 1935-36, judging from state reports. Many states are working to establish student loan funds, as memorials, or otherwise.

Motion Pictures

Dr. Edgar Dale, National Chairman, reports that detailed information about audio-visual aids used in elementary and secondary schools throughout the United States is included in the National Visual Education Directory, just off the press, and available from the American Council on Education, Washington, D. C., price \$3. This book reports the findings of the National Visual Instruction Survey conducted by the U. S. Office of Education and the American Council on Education.

Vol. 4 NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN No. 3

Published monthly except July and August by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers,
1201 Sixteenth Street N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

Subscription price: 20 cents a year; club rates for 5 or more subscriptions, 10 cents each.

Entered as second class matter July 26, 1936, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under act of March 3, 1879.

National President: Mrs. B. F. Langworthy
General Secretary: William H. Bristow
Editor: Clarice Wade

National Parent-Teacher Magazine

Mrs. E. C. Mason, Editor, outlined the developments of policies of the *National Parent-Teacher Magazine* since 1921, and spoke of efforts over a period of years to obtain worthwhile local unit news items from each state. She suggested that each state president every month request one state chairman to submit an account of the most outstanding project of the committee during the preceding two or three months, the item to be sent through the authorized state channel to "The PTA at Work" department. The Board adopted a ruling that all state and local unit news items published in the Magazine shall be approved by the state president.

Mrs. M. D. Wilkinson, National Chairman, announced a PTA special subscription rate which allows members a subscription for 75 cents a year where ten or more subscriptions are sent in together.

Goals

The Goals for PTAs adopted in 1934 by the National Congress will be continued through the present administration; study will continue on goals and standards from the state branches; and an effort will be made to find out the extent to which the Goals are used by local units. Suggestions on revising the set-up of the Goals are invited by the committee, of which Mrs. A. B. Shuttlesworth is chairman.

Art

Miss Elizabeth Robertson, National Chairman, reported increased interest in art activities in the state branches. She suggested that parent-teacher groups foster public opinion in support of an art department in the schools from the elementary grade through highschool and that they keep in touch with nationwide activities to promote art education in the schools.

Legislation

Mrs. Mary T. Bannerman commented as follows on the need for the

American Citizenship study outline for Congress units on which she is working: "Democracy, without which individuals are not citizens but subjects, everywhere is on the defensive. . . . Democratic government can only be saved by more widespread understanding of the principles upon which it is based, employment of practices in accord with those principles in every area of life, whether official, civic, social, religious, or domestic, courage to stand for those principles whenever and wherever they are challenged or attacked, and constant promotion of democratic ideals lest a defaulting citizenry pave the way for attack."

The citizenship outline in preparation will have the benefit of the advice and assistance of authorities in philosophy, psychology, home life, health, education, and government, among whom are Dr. George F. Zook, Director, American Council on Education; Dr. John W. Studebaker, U. S. Commissioner of Education; Dr. Edward Elliott Richardson, Professor of Philosophy, George Washington University; Dr. Arthur Deerin Call, Editor of *World Affairs*, and Dr. Paul J. Everhardt, Director, Child Guidance Clinic, Washington, D. C.

Alcohol and Narcotics

The Board recommended that a definite study of the marijuana drug be made this year by the state branches in connection with their study of the use and effects of alcohol and narcotics. A constructive aggressive campaign of education and action will be formulated by the National Committee on Study of the Use and Effects of Alcohol and Narcotics and presented at the 1937 National Convention. The National Legislation Program for 1937 provides for special watchfulness for legislation which provides regulation for narcotics of all sorts, especially marijuana.

Rural Service

Dr. William McKinley Robinson, National Chairman, reported that at the August meeting of the National Conference Board on Rural Education, it was resolved that there should be a general conference on rural education problems. The Board indicated its approval of this recommendation and its willingness to cooperate.

The Congress Emblem

The Congress emblem will be seen frequently during coming months, as activities celebrating the 40th Anniversary get under way. Following are answers to some of the questions which are frequently asked about it:

The emblem of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers is symbolized by the oak tree, the trunk of which represents the national organization; the main branches, the state Congresses; the small limbs, the districts and councils; the twigs, the local organizations; and the leaves, the individual members. Each in turn draws its life from the parent stem.

The parent-teacher emblem represents a definite pledge of service and protection to childhood. The wearer of this emblem indicates that he has a share in this service and the inspiration of being a part of the largest organized movement for child welfare in the world today.

The emblem, adopted in 1922, is set forth in bold relief of gold against a background of blue. It is sold only to Congress members.

Several types of emblems—rings, pins, buttons, keys, and lavalieres—are available from the National Office at prices ranging from 50 cents upward. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelop for descriptive folder.

Exceptional Child

The new Congress leaflet, "The Exceptional Child," contains a revised list of suggested readings that study groups and others seeking special help and information will find valuable, according to Mrs. William J. Hayes, National Chairman of the Committee on the Exceptional Child. It is suggested that state board members and other leaders study the leaflet and the plan of work of this committee that is relatively new on the Congress list. Their contacts with local groups and individual parents afford them many opportunities to encourage activity in the Congress units and to help parents and others who are interested in the physical and educational welfare of that large group of children who differ so markedly from the average in their physical or mental development, or by reason of special handicaps, that they are classed as "exceptional."

Directed Study Courses

Directed study courses, either by correspondence or group study, will have an important part in the educational program of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers during the coming year, it was announced at the meeting of the National Board. Courses will be offered on the following subjects: Parent-Teacher Organization, Parliamentary Procedure, Highschool P.T.A., Publicity, Program Planning, Our Public Schools.

A registration fee of \$1 is charged for each course. Any person who is a Congress member may register for a course, upon approval of the state president. Registration blanks may be obtained from the National Office or from the state president.

Radio

An interesting and instructive program which has come to our notice are the band instrument lessons being conducted by Dr. Joseph E. Maddy, President of the National Music Supervisors' Conference. These lessons are being broadcast over the Red Network of the National Broadcasting Company every Tuesday from 2:00-2:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time. Listen in.

Cooperation with Colored Congress

Mrs. Charles D. Center reported on the activities of the Committee on Cooperation with the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers. She attended their Convention in Atlanta, July 26 to 29, which was attended by 250 to 300 people. The Georgia Congress (white) presented the Colored Congress with a check for \$15 to help defray expenses for the Convention.

The National Office has sent a supply of Congress publications for distribution by the Colored Congress.

Child Labor Week material may be obtained by writing to the National Child Labor Committee, 419 Fourth Avenue, New York City.

PARENT - TEACHER RADIO FORUM ON GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILD

NBC BLUE NETWORK

WEDNESDAY, 4:00-4:30 P. M., E.S.T.
Sponsored by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, American Academy of Pediatrics, and National Broadcasting Company

December 2

Does Like Beget Like?

Amos H. Hersh, Associate Professor of Biology, Adelbert College, Western Reserve University

December 9

Measurements of Growth

Harold C. Stuart, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Child Hygiene, Harvard Medical School

December 16

Individual Variations in Infants and Children

Alfred H. Washburn, Director, Child Research Council, University of Colorado

December 23

Foods and Growth

E. V. McCollum, Professor of Biochemistry, Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health

December 30

Chemical Elements and Their Part in Body Growth

S. Z. Levine, Professor of Pediatrics, Cornell University Medical College

International Relations

Study courses announced in the October BULLETIN on (1) *Clash in the Pacific*, (2) *War Tomorrow—Can We Keep Out?* and (3) *Made in U.S.A.*, should be ordered direct from the Foreign Policy Association, 8 West 40th Street, New York City, or the National Office will forward orders. The price of each book is 25 cents in paper covers, or 35 cents in board covers; an accompanying study outline on each book is 15 cents. Be sure to specify which course you wish.

The Child, monthly news summary of the Children's Bureau, can be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at 10 cents a copy, or \$1 a year on subscription.

NEWS FROM STATE BRANCHES

ALABAMA

A new pamphlet entitled, "Program Building," has been published by the Alabama Congress of Parents and Teachers. It was prepared by Mary England, who is state and National Chairman of Membership. In the foreword, Mrs. James Fitts Hill, State President, urges local units to study the bulletin and to apply its principles of sound program building.

ARKANSAS

Mrs. Scott Wood, State President, writes that the Arkansas Congress has published study programs concerning the social and economic problems in Arkansas for the use of its study groups. Three bulletins have been published during the past two years as follows: 1. *Parents' Cooperation to Improve Instruction*; 2. *Changing Attitudes Through Adult Education*; 3. *A New Approach*.

GEORGIA

The Traffic Safety Education Project of the National Congress, library extension, health, and school education have been adopted as special projects of the Georgia Congress this year, according to Mrs. Charles D. Center, State President.

PARENT-TEACHER WEEK

Parent-Teacher Weeks were observed in the states as follows:

- Arkansas—October 4-17
- Florida—October 12-18
- Illinois—October 18-24
- Kentucky—October 4-10
- Mississippi—October 19-23
- Missouri—September 20-26
- Nebraska—September 27-October 3
- Ohio—October 4-10
- Texas—October 19-25
- Washington—October 11-17
- Wisconsin—October 26-31
- Wyoming—October 11-17

FLORIDA

Mrs. C. F. Parvin, State President, reports that several types of group discussions were successfully demonstrated in presenting the work of state Congress departments and districts at the state convention. Methods demonstrated were: (1) an interview, (2) a youth conference, (3) a lecture, (4) questions and answers, and (5) district reports were given by the district directors in the form of a panel discussion. (Valuable suggestions for carrying on the various types of discussion are given in the *Parent-Teacher Manual*, pages 106-110.)

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Mrs. Robert F. Crosby, State President, sends a copy of the Governor's Proclamation for Parent-Teacher Week from which we quote:

The public welfare of our state has been and is being benefited, particularly as it relates to our educational interests, by the New Hampshire Congress of Parents and Teachers. This organization has proven of value in bringing about intelligent and sympathetic cooperation between homes and schools. In appreciation of this service and with hope for its continuance and increase, I hereby designate the first week in October, 1936, as Parent-Teacher Week, in New Hampshire. In recognition of the good accomplished by the Congress, I ask the people of New Hampshire to give the objectives sought interested and helpful attention.

When a newspaper editor uses his vacation to attend a parent-teacher institute, its news. Mr. John H. Kline, editor of the Keene, New Hampshire, *Sentinel* (or, more important, husband of the District P.T.A. President), spent his vacation attending the parent-teacher institute at the University of New Hampshire at Durham. Mrs. Kline writes that he enjoyed his experience there so much that he is planning to go again next year.

REMINDER

Local unit news items intended for the P.T.A. at Work department of the *National Parent-Teacher Magazine* are due in the National Office not later than the 1st of each month. All items must be approved by the state president or her representative.

CALIFORNIA

Second District, San Francisco, of the California Congress, is doing a special piece of work along the line of juvenile protection. After years of research and investigation, a plan has been presented by Second District asking for the establishment of a Children's Court in the City and County of San Francisco. The plans include a Superior Court and a Juvenile Court, presided over by a full-time Superior Judge, the Court to have jurisdiction over adoptions, family cases, divorces involving care of minor children, and adult contributory cases. Second District members believe that establishment of the Children's Court would give opportunity for a healthy cooperation between the prosecuting attorney who presents the people's case at the preliminary hearing and the one who tries it in the Superior Court. Too often there is not the proper sympathy with the complaining witness nor an understanding of the effect that the wrongdoer has had upon the child.

MISSISSIPPI

The Traffic Safety Education Project of the National Congress, emphasizing its application to problems in the state of Mississippi, was presented at six regional meetings held in the following towns between October 26 and November 5: Vicksburg, McComb, Gulfport, Philadelphia, Greenwood, Tupelo.

Book Week—November 15-21
Topic: Books to Grow On